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**“GET IN TOUCH FOUNDATION” HONORS MOTHER & DAUGHTER “WOMEN OF STRENGTH”**

**MILFORD, CT** – The Get In Touch Foundation’s 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Pretty In Pink” Brunch & Women of Strength Award was held on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Great River Golf Club in Milford, CT. Dr. Barbara Ward, surgical oncologist at Greenwich Hospital, was honored along with her mother, 44-year breast cancer survivor, Dolores A. Ward.

The Get In Touch Foundation is a non-profit organization incorporated in 2007 by Mary Ann Wasil Nilan, who was treated by Dr. Ward for breast cancer in 2004. Dr. Ward has acted as a Consulting Board Member to Get In Touch, whose Get In Touch Girls’ Program & Daisy Wheel breast health initiative teaches girls in grades 5-12 the importance of and how to do a breast self exam – for life.

The free program was launched in September 2009 and has been implemented by school nurses in 42 states, Washington, DC, and 13 countries.

Dr. Ward’s husband and teenaged daughters were also in attendance at the sold-out event, along with a Greenwich Hospital table filled with employees and Dr. Ward supporters. Greenwich Hospital was a Platinum Sponsor for this year’s event.

Dolores Ward was introduced and received her award after several poignant words were shared by CT Rep. Rosa DeLauro, herself a cancer survivor and a long-time supporter of Get In Touch.

Dolores spoke publicly for the first time about her breast cancer diagnosis and treatment 44 years ago, and the rich and faith-filled life she continues to lead. Dr. Ward followed her mother, sharing a personal side of her choice to pursue surgical oncology and the passion that flows from one generation of Ward women to the next.

Speaking with Dr. Ward’s daughters after the event, the girls said they learned far more than they expected to that day; they knew, after all, the serious importance of breast self exam as a lifelong habit, but they had never heard their grandmother’s “story quite this way before. They learned that they are cut from a fabric of indomitable strength and faith – they are the daughters and granddaughters of “Women of Strength.”

For more information about the Get In Touch Girls’ Program & Daisy Wheels, go to [www.GetInTouchFoundation.org](http://www.GetInTouchFoundation.org).

(Photo: Dolores Ward is surrounded by her son-in-law John, daughter Barb and granddaughters Erin and Mary.)